PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~In a wireless communication system, a~~ A method for transmitting pilot references from a plurality of transmission sources in a wireless communication system, the method comprising:

~~receiving at each transmission source one or more signals indicative of a time reference for the communication system;~~

generating at each transmission source a plurality of pilot bursts for a pilot reference; and

transmitting the plurality of pilot bursts ~~in synchronization with the time reference~~ from each transmission source at predetermined times, wherein pilot bursts from the plurality of transmission sources are aligned at each of the predetermined times.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving at each transmission source one or more signals indicative of a time reference for the communication system, wherein the plurality of pilot bursts from each transmission source are transmitted in synchronization with the time reference ~~at predetermined time intervals~~.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of pilot bursts has a predefined width.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each pilot burst is transmitted at or near a maximum transmit power level of the transmission source.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

withholding data transmission at each access point during transmission of the pilot bursts.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

processing at each transmission source pilot data in accordance with a particular processing scheme such that the pilot reference from each transmission source is differentiated from pilot references from other transmission sources.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the processing at each transmission source comprises:

spreading the pilot data with a pseudo-noise (PN) sequence at a particular offset that is different from offsets for other transmission sources.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

continuing transmission of the plurality of pilot bursts from a particular transmission source even if no data is to be transmitted from the transmission source.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein transmission from each transmission source occurs over slots, and wherein each slot covers a particular time period and includes a particular number of pilot bursts.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein each slot includes two pilot bursts.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein each pilot burst is associated with a respective portion of the slot and positioned in the center of the associated portion.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

padding both sides of each pilot burst in an idle slot with additional transmissions of at least a particular minimum period.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting immediately on both sides of each pilot burst to ensure that the pilot burst is received at or near its steady state value.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 3, wherein the one or more signals used to derive the time reference for the communication system are received from a Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite constellation.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~In a wireless communication system, a~~ A method for transmitting pilot references from a plurality of transmission sources in a wireless communication system, the method comprising:

at each transmission source:

processing one or more received signals to derive a time reference for the communication system,

generating a plurality of pilot bursts for a pilot reference, and

transmitting the plurality of pilot bursts at predetermined times ~~time intervals~~ and in synchronization with the time reference, wherein pilot bursts from the plurality of transmission sources are aligned at each of the predetermined times ~~in time at the time of transmission~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication system comprising:

a plurality of access points, each access point configured to:

~~receive one or more signals indicative of a time reference for the communication system,~~

generate a plurality of pilot bursts for a pilot reference; and

transmit the plurality of pilot bursts ~~in synchronization with the time reference~~ at predetermined times, wherein pilot bursts from the plurality of transmission sources are aligned at each of the predetermined times.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 17, wherein each access point comprises:

a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver configured to receive and process one or more signals from a Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite constellation to provide a signal indicative of [[the]] a time reference for the communication system.

20. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim [[17]] 19, wherein each access point comprises:

a controller configured to receive the time reference for the communication system and generate the plurality of pilot bursts.

21. (Original) The communication system of claim 17, wherein each access point is configured to transmit the plurality of pilot bursts at or near a maximum transmit power level for the access point.

22. (Currently Amended) An access terminal for use in a wireless communication system, comprising:

an RF module configured to receive a modulated signal over a wireless communication link and to condition the received signal to generate a conditioned signal; and

a modem block coupled to the RF module and configured to process the conditioned signal to recover a plurality of pilot references transmitted from a plurality of access points, wherein the pilot reference from each access point is transmitted in pilot bursts at predetermined times ~~that are synchronized with a system time reference~~, ~~and wherein~~ the pilot bursts from the plurality of access points are aligned at each of the predetermined times ~~in time at the time of transmission~~, and the pilot bursts from the plurality of access points are received at approximately a same instance in time.

23. (Original) The access terminal of claim 22, wherein the modem block is configured to generate samples from the conditioned signal and to despread the samples with a pseudo-noise (PN) sequence at a particular offset for each of the plurality of access points.

24. (Currently Amended) An access terminal, comprising:

means for receiving pilot bursts transmitted from a plurality of access points ~~a pilot reference transmitted in pilot bursts that are synchronized with a time reference~~, the pilot bursts being received at approximately a same instance in time; ~~and~~

means for determining a link ~~condition based on the pilot reference~~ having a best signal quality based in part on the pilot bursts received; and

means for determining a highest data rate of transmission supported by the link.

25. (Currently Amended) An access terminal as in claim 24, further comprising:

means for determining an access point associated with the link having a best signal quality ~~based at least on the received pilot reference~~.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) An access terminal as in claim 24, wherein each pilot burst has a predetermined burst width and a predetermined interval, and wherein the predetermined burst width and the predetermined interval are known a priori by the access terminal.

28. (Currently Amended) An access terminal as in claim 27, wherein [[the]] each pilot burst ~~reference~~ is transmitted at approximately a maximum transmit power.

29. (Previously Presented) An access terminal as in claim 27, wherein no user-specific data is received with the pilot bursts.

30. (Currently Amended) An access terminal as in claim 27, wherein ~~multiple~~ the pilot bursts from ~~different~~ the plurality of access points are synchronized.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) An access terminal as in claim 24, further comprising:

means for estimating a worst-case carrier to interference ratio from the pilot bursts ~~reference~~.

33. (Currently Amended) An access terminal, comprising:

a modem for receiving ~~a plurality of~~ pilot bursts from ~~different~~ a plurality of access points, wherein the pilot bursts are synchronized and sent at predetermined times ~~intervals~~; and

a processor for determining a link having a best signal quality based in part on the pilot bursts received and for determining a highest data rate of transmission supported by the link ~~condition from each pilot burst~~.

34. (Previously Presented) An access terminal as in claim 33, wherein the access terminal recognizes the pilot bursts as pilot references.

35. (Currently Amended) An access terminal as in claim 33, wherein the access terminal uses the pilot bursts to estimate a worst-case carrier to interference ratio.

36. (Currently Amended) An access terminal, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory storage unit, storing:

a first set of computer-readable instructions for receiving pilot bursts transmitted from a plurality of access points, the pilot bursts being received at approximately a same instance in time ~~a pilot reference transmitted in pilot bursts that are synchronized with a time reference~~; and

a second set of computer-readable instructions for determining a link having a best signal quality based in part on the pilot bursts received ~~condition based on the pilot reference~~; and

a third set of computer-readable instructions for determining a highest data rate of transmission supported by the link.

37. (Currently Amended) An access terminal as in claim 36, the memory storage unit further storing:

a ~~third~~ fourth set of computer-readable instructions for determining an access point associated with the link having a best signal quality ~~based at least on the received pilot reference~~.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) An access terminal as in claim 36, wherein each pilot burst has a predetermined burst width and a predetermined interval, and wherein the predetermined burst width and the predetermined interval are known ~~a priori~~ *a priori* by the access terminal.

40. (Currently Amended) An access terminal as in claim 39, wherein [[the]] each pilot burst is ~~reference is~~ transmitted at approximately a maximum transmit power.

41. (Previously Presented) An access terminal as in claim 39, wherein no user-specific data is received with the pilot bursts.

42. (Currently Amended) An access terminal as in claim 39, wherein ~~multiple~~ the pilot bursts from ~~different~~ the plurality of access points are synchronized.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) An access terminal as in claim 36, the memory storage unit further storing:

A fifth ~~second~~ set of computer-readable instructions for estimating a worst-case carrier to interference ratio from the pilot bursts ~~reference~~.